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Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

Wednesday - 14 April 1954

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1. The DCI entertained the following members of the S.O.S. club, a group of freshman Republican Congressmen at breakfast this morning: Alvin M. Bentley (Mich.), Oliver P. Bolton (Ohio), Elford A. Cederberg (Mich.), Peter Frelinghuysen, Jr. (N.J.), Jeffrey P. Hillelson (Mo.), Joe Holt (Calif.), Craig Hosmer (Calif.), D. Bailey Merrill (Ind.), Douglas R. Stringfellow (Utah), Stuyvesant Wainwright, 2d (N.Y.), Herbert B. Warburton (Del.), Robert C. Wilson (Calif.), and Clifton Young (Nev.). Present for CIA at breakfast were the Deputy Directors, Mr. Sheldon and myself.

Cong. Merrill talked to Col. White and myself in the strongest terms about the necessity for a good building for CIA. We pointed out to him that cost was a factor, but he insisted that it was as important to the Government as having another airplane. Following breakfast, the Director briefed on CIA organization. Mr. Wisner briefed on certain operations, and Mr. Amory briefed on the coordination of intelligence and the preparation of National Estimates. [redacted] of TSS, briefed on the Soviet documentation chart and certain TSS gadgets. Cong. Frelinghuysen asked the Director about the need for a Joint Committee on Central Intelligence, and the Director expressed some of his views on this subject.

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Cong. Wainwright seemed to feel that a Joint Committee might have merit, and also questioned about some of our National Intelligence Estimates, which he appears to have read in detail during active duty tours. He also complained at breakfast about the continued employment of [redacted] of whom he held a very low personal opinion. Cong. Bentley inquired particularly on the activities of the Watch Committee.

2. Cong. Stringfellow subsequently called me to renew his thanks. He pointed out that he was particularly interested in the coordination features of the presentation as the former lack of coordination among intelligence agencies had caused him concern. He then asked me what my advice might be regarding a dramatization which CBS wishes to prepare on his intelligence operation for OSS in Germany. I told him that we did not advise on such matters, but when he pressed me for my personal guidance I told him that of course we ~~was~~ always were reluctant to have intelligence operations exposed to the public.

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6. The DCI met with Robert Kennedy, Minority Counsel of the Senate Investigations Subcommittee, at the latter's request. Mr. Kennedy told me that there was considerable feeling on the Committee, including its Democratic members, that they should have an answer to some of the charges against CIA presently in the hands of the Committee staff. The DCI is considering what approach he should make in this matter.